MODIFICATIONS TO CLAIM STATUS

A detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

In Summary:

The Examiner withdrew the Restriction Requirement; accordingly, the "withdrawn" claims are now shown as "previously presented".

Claims 1, 3—13, 18—30 are currently pending.

Claims 2, 14—17 were previously cancelled.

Claims 1, 5, 7—10 and 20—22 are original.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 19 and 28 are currently amended.

Claims 6, 12—13, 18, 23—27 and 29—30 are previously presented.

(Note: Claim 11 is amended to remove the dash in the phrase "deflector-in".)

Listing of Claims

1. (Original.) A printing apparatus configured to print on a media and minimize distortion of the media during printing, the apparatus comprising:

a printing zone for printing in a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a heated media deflector configured to guide and dry the media, the heated media deflector located downstream of the horizontal printing zone.

2. (Canceled.)

3. (Currently amended.) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the heated media deflector ~~comprises;~~ comprises:

a plastic support portion; and

a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic support portion, wherein the sheet metal portion configured to contact and guide the media and wherein the sheet metal portion comprises a heating resistor configured for drying the media and for attaching to a bottom face of the sheet metal portion.

4. (Currently amended.) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below ~~the~~ horizontal.

5. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a heating resistor heating the sheet metal to dry the media, the heating resistor being attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal portion.

6. (Previously presented.) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for directing the media into a vertical feeding path.

7. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank preventing heat loss.

8. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

9. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the printing zone comprises a printhead arrangement printing on the media and a platen for supporting the media during printing.

10. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the vertical feeding path includes an exit where the media exits the printing apparatus.

11. (Currently amended.) A method of reducing distortion in media during an inkjet printing process when the media travels from a substantially horizontal printing plane to a substantially vertical feeding path, the method comprising:

printing an image on the media in the substantially horizontal printing plane;

feeding the media in the substantially vertical feeding path after printing the image; and

heating the media, by passing the media over a heated media ~~deflector in~~ deflector in a transition area between the substantially horizontal printing plane and the substantially vertical feeding path.

12. (Previously presented.) The method of claim 11, wherein printing comprises printing water-based ink from an inkjet printhead and providing a paper-based web media.

13. (Previously presented.) The method of claim 12, wherein the heating the media comprises producing an amount of heat to evaporate excess water from the water-based ink.

14—17. (Canceled.)

18. (Previously presented.) A heated media deflector for an inkjet printer comprising:

a deflector that includes

a plastic support portion;

a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion; and

a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal.

19. (Currently amended.) The heated media deflector of claim 18, wherein the sheet metal portion slopes downwards at about 10° below ~~the~~ horizontal.

20. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the plastic support portion comprises a plastic extrusion for smoothly directing a media to a vertical feeding path.

21. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plastic support portion comprises an insulating plank for preventing heat loss.

22. (Original.) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a pair of lateral hooks on the insulated plank for attaching the sheet metal portion to the plastic support portion.

23. (Previously presented.) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a system to

at least one of

detect environmental conditions, and

determine print mode parameters; and

set a heating temperature of the media deflector based on the detected environmental conditions and/or the determined print mode parameters.

24. (Previously presented.) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the environmental conditions comprise at least one of the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

25. (Previously presented.) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the print mode parameters comprise at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

26. (Previously presented.) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the heating temperature is approximately 50°C to 70°C.

27. (Previously presented.) The method of claim 11 wherein the heating comprises setting a heating temperature for heating the media based on at least one of environmental conditions and print mode parameters.

28. (Currently Amended.) The method of claim 27, wherein the environmental conditions ~~includes~~ comprise the ambient temperature and the ambient humidity.

29. (Previously presented.) The method of claim 27, wherein the print mode parameters include at least one of plot width, media advance rate, printhead scanning rate, and ink fired per scan.

30. (Previously presented.) The method of claim 11, wherein the heating further comprises heating the media to a temperature of approximately 50°C to 70°C.